

named an Outstanding Baccalaureate College Professor of the Year.

The awards were presented by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Four professors were recognized at each level of higher education—community college, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral/research—for their outstanding teaching, their commitment to undergraduate students and their contribution to teaching as a profession.

Howard Tinberg teaches literature and composition, and is renowned for involving his students in researching the use of literacy in families and communities. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Writing Center at Bristol Community College and the Center for Teaching and Learning on the campus. He also serves as editor of the national journal, *Teaching English in the Two-Year Colleges*.

Robert Bell's approach to teaching is grounded in his personal connections to his students and the exploration of literature through the details of the author's language. In 1994, he founded a mentoring program for new faculty members, the Project for Effective Teaching, which brings teachers together for weekly discussions, symposia and conferences.

The Professors of the Year Program was created in 1981 and is the only national program specifically designed to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. This year's winners were selected from a pool of nearly 300 teachers nominated by their provosts and academic vice presidents and supported by colleagues, former students, and current students.

Massachusetts is proud of the national recognition earned by these two distinguished educators who have dedicated their careers to improving the learning and lives of their students and colleagues, and I congratulate them for their impressive leadership.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING AKO ABDUL-SAMAD

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I would like to call my colleagues' attention to the extraordinary work of one of my Iowa constituents. This year, Ako Abdul-Samad, a Des Moines-based activist, received the prestigious 2004 National Caring Award for his work with at-risk youth in urban areas throughout Iowa. His organization, Creative Visions, was founded in 1996 after gang violence killed a young woman in suburban Des Moines. By working with both community leaders as well as gang leaders, Ako has helped many youth overcome their troubled past.

I am proud to call Ako Abdul-Samad not only a fellow Iowan, but also a friend. Since 1996, his organization has aided countless Iowa youth. Without

his remarkable efforts and compassion, the urban areas of Iowa would not be the same. His progressive vision of today's youth places a positive outlook not only for the youth of today, but also the youth of the future.

Mr. President, I ask that the following magazine article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Caring Magazine, Dec., 2004]

In 1996, a young woman from an outlying suburb of Des Moines, Iowa, was killed when caught in gang crossfire—a tragedy frequently played out in all too many American cities and towns. The community was outraged, and many people approached local activist Ako Abdul-Samad and asked what could be done. He replied, "Let's talk with the kids you're talking about. Let's hear what they need."

And so Chuck Johnson, president and CEO of Pioneer Hi-Bred and president of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce, and Tom Glenn of the Des Moines Labor Institute met with Abdul-Samad for hours along with 14 of Des Moines' top gang leaders. Then Abdul-Samad met with the gang members alone, discussing an idea he had to build an organization to help at-risk youth.

Of the 14 gang leaders who showed up that day, six bought into Abdul-Samad's idea. And thus Creative Visions was born. The only thing the newly birthed organization asked of the six gang members who stayed on was to stop all of their illegal activity. "We didn't ask them to denounce their gang or to shed their gang colors," says Abdul-Samad. "And for two months we all worked out of my house—with members of the Crips, Bloods, Gangsta Disciples, and Vice Lords coming and going, much to my neighbors' wary curiosity."

"After the two months, we met again with the president of Pioneer Hi-Bred, among others. The gang members walked in wearing their colors, and then shortly into the meeting they all got up and walked out. I kept on talking, and it seemed like they weren't coming back, so I began to apologize to the president and attendees. Just then, all of them walked in again dressed in business suits ready to give their individual presentations. Tears streamed down my face."

In the eight years that have since passed, only one of the six original gang members who agreed to work with Abdul-Samad returned to his former ways, and now even he is starting to put his life back together again.

From that small but powerful beginning, Abdul-Samad estimates that Creative Visions has probably taken more guns and drugs off the street than any other organization in the Midwest. Their secret? Very simple, really. Give the so-called "lost-to-the-streets" youth and young adults a customized, holistic program of self-development, and you will see them transform into self-sufficient, productive citizens. The seeds for Creative Visions were planted 15 years before its formal founding. "I had a contract to visit and work in the prisons statewide," says Abdul-Samad. "One day I was in the intake center where all the prisoners come once they are sentenced. I met a 16-year-old who was about to serve an adult sentence, and before I left he asked me to tell his dad and uncles when I saw them that he was OK. I thought he meant when I got back to Des Moines to look them up. But no, he said his dad was in one state prison and his uncles were in another. Then I learned that all of them had been to El Dora, a well-known boys' training school that supposedly helped troubled youth avoid a life of crime. Obvi-

ously, we were failing to turn young lives around."

Abdul-Samad began to research the problem. He resigned his prison contract and went to work for a Des Moines organization called Urban Dreams, where he worked with kids already at El Dora. "But I wanted to catch the kids before they got to that institution," explains Abdul-Samad. "And I was tired of hearing people say we can fix kids. You can't 'fix' a child or an adult. You can provide resources for them to fix themselves because if the motivation to change doesn't come from their own heart, it doesn't work."

It was at that time that the young woman in Des Moines was killed in the crossfire, providing a catalyst to test Abdul-Samad's concept. "With Creative Visions we showed the kids we were willing to give them an opportunity," Abdul-Samad affirms. "We gave them a new family to belong to. We gave them an opportunity to have a building—that gave them ownership because they put the graffiti on the walls. Every young person who was here in 1996 was involved in all aspects of Creative Visions. We didn't do one program without their input. We would do focus groups until we got it right. And they saw me walking the talk."

And then came 1997 and a personal tragedy that tested Abdul-Samad's faith and ability to continue to "walk the talk." In December his only son, "Little Ako," was shot to death by a young man named Rodney. "When I went to the hospital, it was full of young people waiting to see what I would do," Abdul-Samad recalls. "The police declared it an accidental shooting. My family wanted me to press charges and send the killer to jail. And the gang members wanted to kill Rodney. I will tell you now that the walk became very difficult for me. I worked hard at just trying to think straight. Sometimes I wouldn't know what I was doing."

"I prayed for guidance. Within a week, I called a press conference and had Rodney and his mother there. And I forgave Rodney in public. I said that I've already lost my son and that it would do no good to lose another young man. I said if I could forgive him, who had the right not to? And then I took Rodney home with me for the next four or five days."

"I think this is what the fate of Creative Visions, because the kids and young adults now saw me walk the talk despite my personal pain. They saw I was willing to keep on giving, no matter what it cost. And not only me. There was another staff person whose son was shot and killed in a street not far from our office. The kids could see that there are people who work here that are in pain, but they keep on going." Lest one label Abdul-Samad and his co-workers "role models," he is quick to correct the term: "We don't use the term 'role model'; we use 'goal model.' Too many times we put our role models upon pedestals; we don't allow them to be human, which hinders their giving. We think a 'goal model' allows someone to make mistakes, to learn from those mistakes, and to grow. As goal models we 'model' setting goals, striving to reach those goals, and making those goals a reality."

Certainly part of what makes Creative Visions work is its peer counselors—some of whom are former gang members, drug addicts, and dealers themselves. They are especially able to form trusting relationship with young people who know they have "been there, done that."

Like many dedicated to a life of service, Abdul-Samad's reward is not accolades. "A reward is when a young street person, whom everyone else had given up on, goes through our program and then walks in the door one day and shows you their diploma, or tells you they've gone back to school, or shares

the career path they've chose to pursue. Nothing is more rewarding than to watch someone who is struggling and wearing a look of despair suddenly transform. You can begin to see hope in their eyes and the beginning of a smile."

There are many aspects of inner-city life that are not pretty. Abdul-Samad and his co-workers come face to face with often grim and gritty circumstances that most people would not want to even hear about, much less confront. Teen pregnancies, venereal diseases, drug overdoses, stabbings, are all part of the realities Creative Visions' counselors face each day. Abdul-Samad credits his relationship with God with helping him get through his pain. He also copes through the pen—often writing poetry at 3 a.m., which relaxes him and had led to the release of his first book, *A Deeper Truth/Relevations From the Soul*.

Abdul-Samad has spent most of his 53 years giving to others. Even as a child he tended to wounded animals or fixed broken bicycles and then gave them away to neighborhood kids. By the time he was 18, he was aligned with an organization that fed 300 children each morning—long before the school system began offering free breakfasts. "This was all during the 1960s, a good time in which to have grown up because of all the consciousness-raising going on—women's rights, civil rights, human rights," says Abdul-Samad. "Anyone young who got caught up in the counter-culture movement at that time couldn't help but identify with people who were struggling."

After eight years, the vision Ako Abdul-Samad conceived and built is flourishing. Almost two dozen programs are now operating through his center, from computer classes to 12-step meetings. Since its inception, Creative Visions has attracted and helped more than 6,500 men, women, and at-risk children and youth. Now calls are coming in from cities around the United States—and other countries including Mexico, the Netherlands, and Nigeria—also interested in starting similar organizations.

Abdul-Samad knows that many of the battles he undertakes won't be won in his lifetime. But his philosophy is to plant a seed, and he has planted many.●

#### REVEREND CECIL WILLIAMS

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and share with my colleagues the compassion and dedication of Reverend Cecil Williams in honor of his 40 years of community service to the San Francisco community.

Reverend Williams has been Pastor of San Francisco's Glide Memorial Church since the early 1960s. He has built a community congregation of over 10,000 members and is recognized as a national leader on the leading edge of social change.

Reverend Williams has led Glide Memorial Church to be a political voice for equal rights and a safe haven for the oppressed. His congregation has lent its support to those who speak out on national issues of importance, such as the Vietnam war, nuclear weapon development, affirmative action and HIV/AIDS prevention.

When Reverend Williams joined Glide Memorial Church in the 1960s, he transformed it into a sacred space that honors diversity, expression, and the celebration of life.

I would like to share a couple examples of Reverend Williams' tremendous

work. In the 1960s, Reverend Williams launched a free meal program at Glide that expanded in the 1980s to providing three meals a day to the hungry and homeless. The program currently serves over 1 million meals a year to members of the larger San Francisco community.

In the 1990s, feeling the need to reach out to those involved in drug abuse, Reverend Williams took his message against drugs into the community, using a bullhorn in front of housing projects to call addicts and dealers out to recovery.

As Reverend Williams begins his 40th year at Glide Memorial Church, he is now serving as Glide's CEO and Minister of National and International Ministries. He continues to bring forth new ideas on how to battle the problems inflicting the San Francisco community, including poverty, drug abuse, violence and despair. He is a respected and revered leader who brings together people searching for acceptance, social justice and spiritual growth.

I hope you will all join me in celebrating the remarkable service of Reverend Cecil Williams for the past 40 years at Glide Memorial Church. I wish him many more years of rewarding experiences to the San Francisco community and beyond.●

#### IN TRIBUTE TO RHODE ISLAND BROADCASTING LEGEND SALTY BRINE

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a great Rhode Islander who passed away on Election Day: Walter L "Salty" Brine.

Salty Brine was a local broadcasting legend one might even say he was the voice of Rhode Island. For half a century, he hosted the morning program on WPRO-AM. It was Salty's voice that thrilled three generations of schoolchildren on snowy mornings with the announcement, "No school, Foster-Gloicester!"

Salty's show was the soundtrack of a Rhode Island morning. The sound of his voice conjures up the following scene: It is dark outside, a bowl of steaming oatmeal is on the kitchen table, there is a mad scramble to locate a missing mitten before the school bus arrives.

Salty would preside over the recounting of the news and the weather. His wife Mickie would call in and give a report on what birds were at the birdfeeder. We would be on the edges of our seats waiting for him to say our school was closed. I suppose it is fair to say that Rhode Islanders associate Salty Brine with that singular elation aroused by a snow day. Salty was the ultimate bearer of good news.

Of course, Salty's career encompassed much more than reading the rollof of school closures. From 1958 to 1968, he hosted a children's television program called "Salty Brine's Shack," which costarred his collie Jack and ended reliably with the admonition, "Brush your teeth and say your pray-

ers!" Having lost a leg in a train accident when he was a boy, Salty was a firm support and wonderful example for youngsters who were coping with a similar disability. Salty would demonstrate how the loss of a limb really would not set them back one bit.

Many charitable endeavors benefited from Salty's talent, energy, and good name. He was especially involved in the Big Brothers of Rhode Island, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and was a board member, appropriately enough, of Save the Bay. Cardi's Furniture for whom he had recorded a trademark commercial—honored Salty for his service to our community just last year.

Born in 1918, Salty's life was framed by Red Sox World Series victories. This is entirely appropriate, as Salty was an ardent and devoted fan and even had aspired to be a ball player. Just last August, on Rhode Island Day at Fenway Park, Salty Brine was given the well-deserved honor of throwing out the first pitch.

Like the Big Blue Bug and Mr. Potato Head, Salty Brine, with his skipper's hat, was a Rhode Island icon, a one-of-a-kind and endearing institution that bound all Rhode Islanders together in a single fond experience. He was so much a part of our landscape that the legislature renamed a Narragansett State beach after him. The Salty Brine Beach endures as a permanent affirmation of our affection for our Salty.

Salty Brine was married to his first wife, Marion, known to all as Mickie, for 56 years. She died in 2000. He is survived by his wife, Roseanna, and his son Wally, who co-hosts the "Loren & Wally Morning Show" on WROR-FM in Boston.

Rhode Island will miss him.●

#### RETIREMENT OF VEE BURKE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I commend Ms. Vee Burke for her years of public service as a member of the Congressional Research Service, CRS. She has demonstrated an enormous capacity for public service and tremendous insight on social policy. In over 30 years working for the CRS, Vee has proven herself to be a true expert in the field of public welfare.

Through her hard work and dedication, Vee has provided background reports and thoughtful analysis of low-income programs, especially welfare reform. Members need timely and clear information in order to make informed policy decisions. Vee has provided such information for many years. Her ability to immerse herself in the specific details of each program assured the completeness of her reports, and her consistent presence from one year to the next was essential in maintaining an overview of the larger welfare system that the individual programs collectively represent.

At the end of this month, Vee will be retiring from CRS. While she will be